

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 13369-US-PA
Application No.: 10/710,930

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In The Drawings

Here is provided amended FIG.1 labeled "Replacement Sheet" and "prior art",
please replace original FIG.1 with it.

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REMARKS

Status of the Present Invention

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ross et al. (US 5,056,296).

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al.

Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Regarding claims 20 and 21, applicant has amended claim 16 based on this Office Action with traverse.

Claim 22 has been canceled. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ross et al.

Ross discloses (see column 7, lines 1-6, column 9, lines 10-13 and FIG.2) the second plate 3 has vacuum lines 12b and vacuum inlet 12c. Holding means 12 can be a mechanical means for holding, or preferably a vacuum line 12a which is controllable on the exterior of apparatus 1. Vacuum is pumped to individual lid locator means 6 using vacuum lines 12b and vacuum inlet 12c. Vacuum lines 12a (not shown) are applied to

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lid 8 via second through-hole 7. Vacuum holding means 12a accesses lid 8 via vacuum lines 12b in second through-hole 7 and is controllable externally to second platen 3 for turning ON and OFF. However, the number of the vacuum lines 12a is more than one, and does not belong to the second plate. The vacuum lines 12a access lid 8 via second through-holes 7 individually. Therefore, the vacuum line 12a is misinterpreted as the second air channel formed with the second openings in the second carrier plate in the claimed invention.

Moreover, applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 more clearly, which are further defined that "wherein the second air channel and the third air channel are formed individually without linking each other". Applicant believes that the claimed invention is unknown and no suggestion or teaching in the Ross et al. for an original person skilled in the art.

As mentioned above, Examiner gives an irrational claim construction to the explanation related to "second air channel" in the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests considering the rejections of claims 1-15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as being anticipated by Boyd et al.

Body discloses (see column 4, lines 8-10) a transport chamber 300 comprising a chamber housing 302, a bottom plate 306, a top plate 304. However, the transport chamber is not found to assembly a pair of plates together between the bottom and top plates. Any original person skilled in the art can not understand how does the air-evacuating device linking with the sealed chamber to finish the assembly process.

Applicant has amended claim 16 more clearly, which is further defined that "wherein the air pressure in the sealed chamber is reduced to a first pressure before

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assembling the pair of plates, and the air pressure in the sealed chamber is reduced to a second pressure by the air-evacuating device after assembling the pair of plates, and the second pressure is larger than the first pressure". Applicant believes that the claimed invention is unknown and no suggestion or teaching in the Boyd et al. for an original person skilled in the art.

As mentioned above, Examiner gives an irrational claim construction to the explanation related to "the sealed chamber" in the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests considering the rejections of claims 16-18 should be withdrawn.

Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al.

Applicant submits that the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 16, as currently amended, is novel and unobvious over Ross et al. If independent claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 20 and 21 are allowable as a matter of law, because these dependent claims contain all features of their respective independent claim 16. Applicant submits that claims 20 and 21 bring patent weigh on their own.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests considering the rejections of claims 20 and 21 should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that claims 2, 3, 6, 10 and 13 remain unchanged from their original form, while the rejections to the rejected base claims 1 and 9 are traversed, claims 2, 3, 6, 10 and 13 are submitted to be also allowable as a matter of law.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending Claims 1-18 and 20-21 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date :

March 30, 2007

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